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1955

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Dartmouth and Totnes Port Health Authority

Chronicle (*Printers*), Dartmouth

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DARTMOUTH AND TOTNES PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY

Members:

Representatives from Dartmouth Borough Council

Alderman H. Wheatley, Dartmouth
Alderman B. Lavers, Dartmouth
Councillor W. T. Pillar, Dartmouth
Councillor E. W. Hayhoe, Dartmouth
Councillor F. C. Mullett, Dartmouth

Representatives from Totnes Rural District Council

Councillor G. Gill, Dittisham
Councillor Miss M. E. W. Tozer, Cornworthy
Councillor Mrs. E. Melville, J.P., Kingswear
Councillor E. Monkhouse, Stoke Gabriel

Representative from Totnes Borough Council

Alderman R. F. Rowe, Totnes, Chairman

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Dartmouth and Totnes Port Health Authority for the year ending December 31st, 1955

To the Chairman and Members

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with my statutory duties I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1955.

The Port Health District of Dartmouth and Totnes was constituted in the year 1888 by a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board.

In this Order the limits of jurisdiction are thus laid down.

The jurisdiction of the said Port Health Authority shall extend to so much of the said Port of Dartmouth as lies between Totnes Bridge and a line drawn across the entrance to Dartmouth Harbour, from Blackstone Point to the Outer Forward Point, together with the waters of the said Port within such limits and the place or places for the time being appointed as the Customs' Boarding Station or Stations for such part of the said Port under any regulations for the prevention of the spread of disease issued under the Authority of the Statutes in that behalf, and the Docks, Basins, Harbours, Creeks, Rivers, Channels, Roads, Bays and Streams belonging to that part of the said Port for which such Authority is constituted as aforesaid.

SECTION I.—Staff

TABLE A

Name of Officer	Nature of App'tm'nt	Date of Ap'tm'nt	Qualificat'ns	Any other appointments held
A. D. Verniquet	M.O.H.	Sept. 30 1951	M.B., Ch. B.	General Practitioner Anæsthetist Dartmouth Hospital
R. R. Gatzias	P.S.I.	June 21 1951	——	Trinity House Pilot
A. H. Wright	Clerk and Financial Officer	June 25 1950	——	Clerk & Financial Officer D'th Borough

Address and Telephone Number Medical Officer of Health — 14, Mount Boone, Dartmouth Tel. Dartmouth 366

SECTION II.

Amount of Shipping entering the District during the year 1955

TABLE B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of Ships reported as having or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	
For'gn P'ts	202	4,930	10	202	Nil
Coastwise	108	49,676	12	108	Nil
Total	310	54,606	22	310	Nil

SECTION III.

Character of shipping and tonnage during the year 1955

TABLE C

Passenger Traffic	Number of Passengers INWARDS—Nil Number of ,, OUTWARDS—Nil
Cargo Traffic	Principal IMPORTS—Coal, Timber, Cement Principal EXPORTS—Nil

PRINCIPAL PORTS from which Ships arrive.—Goole, Blyth, London, Baltic Ports

Shipping entering the port has shown a slight increase in tonnage compared with 1954. Foreign shipping increased by 326 tons and coastwise by 10,750 tons.

Ships proceeding up river to Totnes, total 23
With cargoes of Cement 8
With cargoes of Timber 15

SECTION IV.—Inland Barge Traffic

NIL

SECTION V.—Water Supply

1.—Source of supply for:

a. The district—Borough of Dartmouth Supply.

b. Shipping—Borough of Dartmouth Supply.

2.—Reports of tests for contamination.—Under constant sampling by Dartmouth Corporation—all tests satisfactory.

3.—Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes—Flushed regularly and before use.

4.—Number and sanitary condition of water boats and power of control by the Authority.

A new water boat was put into commission in November 1955. This is a steel barge with a capacity of 12 tons.

It is regularly inspected by the Port Sanitary Inspector and a sample of water from the tank taken in November was satisfactory. Powers of control by the Authority are inspection and sampling.

SECTION VI.—

Public Health (Ships) Regulations 1955

1.—LIST OF INFECTED AREA (Regulation 6)

Circulars from Ministry of Health amended and forwarded by hand to Pilots and Customs Officers employed in the district.

RADIO MESSAGES

(a) Permission for ships to enter the Port is sent by radio through the following W/T land stations which normally handles commercial traffic, i.e. Lands End, Niton or Portishead.—Regulation 13

(b) Radio messages from ships are received by the local shipping agents by telephone through the above W/T land stations. The shipping agents contact Port M.O.H. and Port Authorities.—Regulation 14 ((1) (a) and (2)).

(4) MOORING STATIONS (Regulation 22 to 30)

The Mooring Stations used is any part of the Harbour below Sandquay Ferry, and in case of serious infectious disease ships would be moored to the Packet Buoys until relieved of its patients and suspects and contacts seen and the Ship fumigated. Ships proceeding to Totnes are always dealt with before going up river.

(5) ARRANGEMENTS for

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than Small Pox—see section VII).

Torquay Isolation Hospital, Torquay.

(b) Surveillance and follow-up of contacts:

Contacts residing locally would be supervised by the M.O.H. and contacts going afar would give their names and destinations—the M.O.H. of the different localities would be notified of the circumstances. The Ministry of Health also would be notified immediately.

(c) Cleansing and disinfecting of ships, persons, clothing and other articles:—

There is no provision for cleaning and disinfecting Ships beyond burning sulphur in infected cabins, etc. No provision for cleansing or disinfecting persons. Clothing and other articles can be disinfected in the Town Disinfector.

SECTION VII.—Smallpox

(1) Name of Isolation Hospital to which Smallpox cases are sent in the district:

County Smallpox Hospital, Upton Pines, Exeter.

(2) Arrangements for transport of such cases to the Hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

Ambulance is provided from the County Smallpox Hospital on application to the Resident Medical Officer. The

Exeter Special Hospital Management Committee are responsible for the ambulance and the ambulance crews are vaccinated yearly.

(3) Names of Smallpox consultants available:

Dr. C. Seward, Exeter

Dr. W. J. Laird, Exeter

(4) Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of Smallpox:

The Virus reference Laboratory, Colindale, London, N.W.4, or through the Public Health Laboratory at 7, Dix's Field, Exeter.

SECTION VIII.—Venereal Disease

There are no local facilities available for the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal Disease amongst Merchant Seamen. The nearest clinic is at Torbay Hospital, Torquay 5-30 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday (Men), Thursday (Women), but ships do not remain in the Port long enough for the clinics to be available.

SECTION IX.

Cases of Notifiable and Other Infectious Disease on Ships

TABLE D

Category	Disease	No. of cases during year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases from ships from foreign ports	—	—	—	—
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	—	—	—	—
Cases from other ships	—	—	—	—

SECTION X.—

Observation on the Occurrence of Malaria in Ships

NIL

SECTION XI.—

Measures taken against ships infested with, or suspected for, Plague

NIL

SECTION XII.—

Measures against Rodents in Ships from Foreign Ports

1.—Procedure for inspection of ships in Port:
Routine inspection of ships entering Port by Port Sanitary Inspector.

2.—Arrangements for bacteriological and pathological examination of rodents with special reference to rodent plague is carried out by Public Health Laboratory at Exeter.

Number of rodents sent for examination during the year. —NIL.

3.—There are no arrangements in the District for deratting ships.

4.—Procedure in the rat-proofing of ships.—NIL.

TABLE E

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports

Category	Number
Black Rats	Nil
Brown Rats	Nil
Species not known ...	Nil
Sent for examination ...	Nil
Infected with plague ...	Nil

TABLE F

De-ratting Certificates and De-ratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports

No. of De-ratting Certificates issued					Number of De-rat'g ex'mption c'rtific's issued	Total C'rt'ficates Issued
After fumigation with		After trapp'g	After pois'n'g	Total		
HCN	Other fumigant (state method)					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION XIII.—Inspection of ships for nuisances

TABLE G

Inspections and Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections		Notices Served		Result of serving notice
		Stat'ry notices	Inf'mal notices	
General examination of crews' quarters, heads, water supply, store rooms, holds and bilges	310	Nil	5	Notices complied with and carried out satisfactorily
Total	310	Nil	5	

SECTION XIV.—Public Health (Shell-Fish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948

There are two cockle beds, one at Dittisham Beach and Stoke Gabriel Beach. No Shell-fish are obtainable from the beds at present.

SECTION XV.—Medical Inspection of Aliens

Not applicable as the Port is not approved for the landing of aliens.

SECTION XVI.—Miscellaneous

Arrangements for burial on shore of persons who have died on board ships from one of the less serious infectious diseases, is that the body would be transferred to the local mortuary with the usual precautions. Burial would then proceed in the normal manner. Smallpox cases would have to be dealt with by the staff of the Public Health Authority with assistance from the neighbouring Authority at Torquay and staff of Torbay Isolation Hospital.

During 1955 the following patients from ships were treated by me:—

1. At the Dartmouth and Kingswear Hospital—
   One case of concussion.
   One case of Stoker's cramp.
2. At Surgery or at Dartmouth and Kingswear Hospital as out-patients—

Crush injury	4 cases
Minor Bone Injury	4
Spondylitis	1
Upper Respiratory Tract Infections	3
Sepsis	4
Minor ailments	10

3. There were no cases of Venereal or Infectious Diseases.

All Foreshores, Quays and Jetties have been inspected and found satisfactory.

All sewer outfalls are satisfactory, excepting three at Dartmouth which were still defective. The matter has again been brought to the notice of the Dartmouth Borough Council.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

A. D. VERNIQUET, M.B., Ch.B.,

Port Medical Officer of Health.